

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs

2021 Roster

Sen. Larry Walker, Chairman

District 20
1110 Washington Street
Perry, GA 31069

Sen. Bo Hatchett

District 50
P.O. Box 2706
Clarkesville, GA 30523

Sen. Lee Anderson, Vice-Chairman

District 24
160 Louisville Road
Grovetown, GA 30813

Sen. Kim Jackson

District 41
P.O.Box 1411
Pine Lake, GA 30072

Sen. Russ Goodman, Secretary

District 8
9677 Frank S. Sessoms Memorial
Highway Homerville, GA 31634

Sen. Sheikh Rahman

District 5
779 Simon Way
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

Sen. Dean Burke (Ex-Officio)

District 11
1608 Pinelane Drive
Bainbridge, GA 39819

Sen. Freddie Powell Sims

District 12
5377 Goose Hollow Road
Dawson, GA 31742

Sen. Max Burns

District 23
P.O. Box 203
Sylvania, GA 30467

Sen. Carden Summers

District 13
108 East 13th Avenue
Cordele, GA 31015

Sen. Tyler Harper (Ex-Officio)

District 7
P.O. Box 798
Ocilla, GA 31774

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs
2021-2022 Rules

1. These Committee Rules of Operation shall be consistent with Senate Rule 2-1.5 regarding the establishment of Rules of Operation.
2. Quorum of the Committee shall be five (5) members.
3. The Chairman shall determine which bills and resolutions are to be considered and the order in which said measures are considered. No motion that the Committee recommends (Do Pass, Do Not Pass, etc.) shall be in order until the Chairperson has stated that such a motion will be entertained. The Chairman shall have the authority and discretion to call a bill, resolution, substitute, or amendment for debate and explanation only.
4. The Chairman may appoint subcommittees and officers of subcommittees and shall have the authority to refer bills and resolutions to subcommittee for study. Such subcommittees in turn shall have the authority to make recommendations on such measures to the full Committee at such a time as shall be designated by the Chairman. All actions of the subcommittees shall be approved or disapproved by the full Committee.
5. A “Do Pass” motion that fails does not automatically give a “Do Not Pass” recommendation, nor does a “Do Not Pass” motion which fails give an affirmative recommendation. A “Do Not Pass” motion which passes is considered unfavorably reported by the Committee and may not be taken up by the full Senate.
6. The Committee shall convene, recess and adjourn upon the order of the Chairman.
7. Any members of the Committee who disagree with the majority report of the Committee shall be privileged to file a minority report, in writing, with the Secretary of the Senate when the Committee report is read, pursuant to Senate Rule 2-1.6.
8. These Rules may be amended upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by a quorum of the Committee in a meeting called by the Chairman.
9. A bill, resolution, or other matter will be considered only after the presentation by its principal author or a legislator whom he designates to do so. In the event that more than one member of the General Assembly has signed a measure, the principal author shall be the one whose name appeared first in the list of authors.
10. The Chairman reserves the right to delay action on substitutes and amendments not provided by the Chairman at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the hearing.
11. Where these Rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate, as adopted, shall govern, pursuant to Senate Rule 2-1.5.
12. No member of any Committee may abstain from voting, unless the member or a member’s immediate family has direct pecuniary interest in result of such vote, pursuant to Rule 2-4-2(f).

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs
Thursday, January 28, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs met on Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 2:15 p.m. in the Senate Mezzanine of the State Capitol. The following members were in attendance:

Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th), Chairman
Sen. Lee Anderson (24th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Max Burns (23rd) (*Arrived late*)
Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Kim Jackson (41st)
Sen. Sheikh Rahman (5th)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th)
Sen. Carden Summers (13th)

NOTE: Sen. Dean Burke (11th) and Sen. Russ Goodman (8th) were absent.

Chairman Walker (20th) called the meeting to order at 2:16 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Burns (23rd) arrived at 2:25 p.m.

Commissioner Gary Black

The Chair recognized Commissioner Gary Black, Georgia Department of Agriculture for the purpose of updating the committee on the previous fiscal year report.

Dr. Nick Place

The Chair recognized Dr. Nick Place, University of Georgia College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences for the purpose of introducing himself to the committee as the new Dean of the college.

2021-2022 Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Rules

The Chair presented the proposed Rules for 2021-2022.

The Chair recognized Sen. Anderson (24th) who made a motion to adopt the 2021-2022 Rules, as presented. Senator Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, by a vote of 8-0. The Rules are attached.

Chairman Walker (20th) adjourned the meeting at 2:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th), Chairman

/s/ Ryann Miller, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs
Monday, February 8, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs met on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 2:15 p.m. in the Senate Mezzanine of the State Capitol. The following members were in attendance:

Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th), Chairman
Sen. Lee Anderson (24th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Russ Goodman (8th), Secretary
Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Kim Jackson (41st)
Sen. Sheikh Rahman (5th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Carden Summers (13th)

NOTE: Sen. Max Burns (23rd) and Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th) were absent.

Chairman Walker (20th) called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

SB 86 (Sen. Walker, 20th, LC 36 4570) “Fair Business Practices Act of 1975,” so as to provide for requirements for solicitations of services for corporate filings required by the Secretary of State; provide

The Chair presented the bill to the Committee, then opened the floor for questions.

NOTE: Sen. Rahman (5th) arrived at 2:41 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Summers (13th) who made a motion that **SB 86 Do Pass (LC 36 4570)**. Sen. Jackson (41st) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Committee Recommendation: SB 86 DO PASS (LC 36 4570)

NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) arrived at 2:43 p.m.

Chairman Walker (20th) adjourned the meeting at 2:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Russ Goodman (8th), Secretary

/s/ Ryann Miller, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs
Thursday, February 18, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs met on Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 2:15 p.m. in the Senate Mezzanine of the State Capitol. The following members were in attendance:

Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th), Chairman
Sen. Lee Anderson (24th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Russ Goodman (8th), Secretary
Sen. Max Burns (23rd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Kim Jackson (41st)
Sen. Sheikh Rahman (5th)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th)
Sen. Carden Summers (13th)

Chairman Walker (20th) called the meeting to order at 2:17 p.m.

SB 157 (Sen. Cowsert, 46th, LC 36 4631) "Fair Business Practices Act of 1975"; deceptive practice of musical performance groups advertising; prohibit

The Chair recognized Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Cowsert (46th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Burns (23rd) arrived at 2:20 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

The Chair recognized Sen. Anderson (24th) who made a motion that **SB 157 Do Pass (LC 36 4631)**. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 10-0.

Committee Recommendation: SB 157 DO PASS (LC 36 4631)

Chairman Walker (20th) adjourned the meeting at 2:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Russ Goodman (8th), Secretary

/s/ Ryann Miller, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs
Thursday, February 25, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs met on Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 2:15 p.m. in the Senate Mezzanine of the State Capitol. The following members were in attendance:

Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th), Chairman
Sen. Lee Anderson (24th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Russ Goodman (8th), Secretary
Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Ex-Officio (*Left Early*)
Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Kim Jackson (41st)
Sen. Sheikh Rahman (5th)
Sen. Carden Summers (13th)

NOTE: Sen. Max Burns (23rd) and Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th) were absent.

Chairman Walker (20th) called the meeting to order at 2:19 p.m.

Dr. Doug Britton

The Chair recognized Dr. Doug Britton, Georgia Tech Agricultural Technology Research Program for the purpose of introducing himself to the Committee.

SB 195 (Sen. Mullis, 53rd, LC 44 1642) Hemp Farming; definition; revise

The Chair recognized Sen. Mullis (53rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Mullis (53rd) presented a proposed substitute to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Doug Stoner, Smith Nurseries

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

None

The Chair recognized Sen. Jackson (41st) who made a motion that **SB 195 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 44 1683S)**. Sen. Anderson (24th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Committee Recommendation: SB 195 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 44 1683S)

SB 205 (Sen. Parent, 42nd, LC 50 0180) Commerce and Trade; charging covered establishments certain fees on food and beverage deliveries; prohibit third party food delivery platforms

The Chair announced that SB 205 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Parent (42nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

William Goudy, Copeland's
John Metz, Jr., Marlow's Tavern and Street Café
Vipul Patel, US Cafe

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

Trevor Theunissen, Uber

NOTE: Sen. Burke (11th) left the meeting at 3:16 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: SB 205 (LC 50 0180) No action was taken

SB 222 (Sen. Summers, 13th, LC 50 0190) State Symbols; pecan as the official state nut; designate

The Chair recognized Sen. Summers (13th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Summers (13th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

The Chair recognized Sen. Jackson (41st) who made a motion that **SB 222 Do Pass (LC 50 0190)**. Sen. Goodman (8th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Committee Recommendation: SB 222 DO PASS (LC 50 0190)

SB 247 (Sen. Anderson, 24th, LC 44 1677) Agricultural Commodity Commissioner; public hearings with online public comment opportunities; replace

The Chair announced that SB 247 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. Anderson (24th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Anderson (24th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Bo Warren, Georgia Department of Agriculture

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

None

Chairman Walker (20th) adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Russ Goodman (8th), Secretary

/s/ Ryann Miller, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs
Tuesday, March 2, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs met on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. in the Senate Mezzanine of the State Capitol. The following members were in attendance:

Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th), Chairman
Sen. Lee Anderson (24th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Russ Goodman (8th), Secretary
Sen. Max Burns (23rd)
Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Kim Jackson (41st) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Sheikh Rahman (5th)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th)
Sen. Carden Summers (13th)

NOTE: Sen. Tyler Harper (7th) and Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th) were absent.

Chairman Walker (20th) called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

SB 247 (Sen. Anderson, 24th, LC 44 1677) Agricultural Commodity Commissions; public hearings with online public comment opportunities; replace

The Chair recognized Sen. Anderson (24th) for the purpose of presenting a proposed substitute. Sen. Anderson (24th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Jackson (41st) arrived at 1:02 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

The Chair recognized Sen. Goodman (8th) who made a motion that **SB 247 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 44 1702S)**. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Committee Recommendation: SB 247 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 44 1702S)

Chairman Walker (20th) adjourned the meeting at 1:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Russ Goodman (8th), Secretary

/s/ Ryann Miller, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs
Thursday, March 11, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs met on Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 2:15 p.m. in the Senate Mezzanine of the State Capitol. The following members were in attendance:

Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th), Chairman
Sen. Lee Anderson (24th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Russ Goodman (8th), Secretary
Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Kim Jackson (41st)
Sen. Sheikh Rahman (5th)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th)
Sen. Carden Summers (13th)

NOTE: Sen. Max Burns (23rd) and Sen. Dean Burke (11th) were absent.

Chairman Walker (20th) called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) arrived at 2:17 p.m.

[HB 153](#) (Rep. Wiedower, 119th, LC 36 4509) Fair Business Practices Act of 1975; solicitations of services for corporate filings required by the Secretary of State; provide for requirements

The Chair recognized Rep. Marcus Wiedower (119th) for the purpose of presenting a proposed substitute. Rep. Wiedower (119th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

The Chair recognized Sen. Summers (13th) who made a motion that **HB 153 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 36 4788S)**. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0. Sen. Walker (20th) will be the Senate Sponsor of HB 153.

Committee Recommendation: HB 153 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 36 4788S)

[HB 336](#) (Rep. Corbett, 174th, LC 44 1689S) Agriculture; hemp farming; compliance with federal laws and regulations; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Corbett (174th) for the purpose of presenting a proposed substitute. Rep. Corbett (174th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
None

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

Victoria Collier, High Horse Farms
Ashland Kayne, Sunflora and Your CBD Store
Fred Swann, Greening Georgia
Aviva Vuvuzela, Georgia Hemp Economic Revival Organization

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

The Chair recognized Sen. Jackson (41st) for the purpose of proposing an amendment to the proposed substitute, by striking, on line 112 the word “misdemeanor” and replacing it with the word “felony”. Sen. Rahman (5th) seconded the motion of the amendment. The motion failed by a vote of 3-5.

Sen. Jackson (41st), Sen. Rahman (5th), and Sen. Sims (12th) in voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Anderson (24th) Sen. Goodman (8th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Harper (7th), and Sen. Summers (13th) voted against the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Goodman (8th) who made a motion that **HB 336 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 44 1721S)**. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-2. Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) will be the Senate Sponsor of HB 336.

Sen. Anderson (24th), Sen. Goodman (8th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Harper (7th), Sen. Sims (12th) and Sen. Summers (13th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Jackson (41st) and Sen. Rahman (5th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 336 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 44 1721S)

HB 693 (Rep. Meeks, 178th, LC 44 1695) Motor vehicles; operation of farm tractor on interstate highways; prohibit

The Chair recognized Rep. Steven Meeks (178th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Meeks (178th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

The Chair recognized Sen. Anderson (24th) who made a motion that **HB 693 Do Pass (LC 44 1695)**. Sen. Summers (13th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0. Sen. Anderson (24th) will be the Senate Sponsor of HB 693.

Committee Recommendation: HB 693 DO PASS (LC 44 1695)

Chairman Walker (20th) adjourned the meeting at 3:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Russ Goodman (8th), Secretary

/s/ Ryann Miller, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs
Monday, March 15, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs met on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. in the Senate Mezzanine of the State Capitol. The following members were in attendance:

Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th), Chairman
Sen. Lee Anderson (24th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Russ Goodman (8th), Secretary
Sen. Max Burns (23rd)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Sheikh Rahman (5th)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Carden Summers (13th)

NOTE: Sen. Dean Burke (11th) and Sen. Kim Jackson (41st) were absent.

Chairman Walker (20th) called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

HB 138 (Rep. Mainor, 56th, LC 41 3078S) Property; certain landlords shall provide certain notices to existing and prospective tenants with regard to certain crimes occurring on the premises being leased; provide

The Chair announced that HB 138 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Rep. Mesha Mainor (56th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Mainor (56th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Harper (7th) and Sen. Sims (12th) arrived at 1:03 p.m.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

J'Lyn Furby, American Kinetics, LLC
Steven Chatman, Georgia Indigenous Movie Industry Association
Jacqueline Bailey

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

Emily Hirst, Georgia Municipal Association
Debra Nesbit, Association of County Commissioners of Georgia
Terry Norris, Georgia Sheriffs Association
Butch Ayers, Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police
Hayden Stanley, Georgia Apartment Association

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

Committee Recommendation: HB 138 (LC 41 3078S) No action was taken

HB 676 (Rep. Houston, 170th, LC 44 1713S) Georgia Farmers' Market and Produce Terminal Development Authority Act; enact

The Chair announced that HB 676 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Rep. Penny Houston (170th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Houston (170th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Commissioner Gary Black, Georgia Department of Agriculture

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

None

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

Committee Recommendation: HB 676 (LC 44 1713S) No action was taken

Chairman Walker (20th) adjourned the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Russ Goodman (8th), Secretary

/s/ Ryann Miller, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs
Wednesday, March 24, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs met on Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 307 of CLOB. The following members were in attendance:

Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th), Chairman
Sen. Lee Anderson (24th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Russ Goodman (8th), Secretary
Sen. Max Burns (23rd)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Sheikh Rahman (5th)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Carden Summers (13th)

NOTE: Sen. Dean Burke (11th) and Sen. Kim Jackson (41st) were absent.

Chairman Walker (20th) called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) and Sen. Harper (7th) arrived at 3:02 p.m.

HB 676 (Rep. Houston, 170th, LC 44 1713S) Georgia Farmers' Market and Produce Terminal Development Authority Act; enact

The Chair recognized Rep. Penny Houston (170th) for the purpose of presenting a proposed substitute. Rep. Houston (170th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

The Chair recognized Sen. Anderson (24th) who made a motion that **HB 676 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 44 1747S)**. Sen. Summers (13th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 7-0. Sen. Walker (20th) will be the Senate Sponsor of HB 676.

Committee Recommendation: HB 676 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 44 1747S)

NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) arrived at 3:07 p.m.

The Committee received a presentation from Ken Morrow of the Patten Seed Company, regarding the state of the sod industry in Georgia.

Georgia Commodity Commission Appointments

Georgia Grown Commodity Commission, Will Bentley

The Chair made a motion to nominate Will Bentley as the Senate appointment to the Georgia Grown Commission. Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Georgia Commodity Commission for Equine, Harry Thompson

The Chair made a motion to nominate Harry Thompson to the Georgia Commodity Commission for Equine. Sen. Anderson (24th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Chairman Walker (20th) adjourned the meeting at 3:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Russ Goodman (8th), Secretary

/s/ Ryann Miller, Recording Secretary